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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/518,726	06/03/2005	Trygve Haland	TANDBERGS4	9991
25877	7590	03/28/2008		
JEFFREY PEARCE 34825 SULTAN-STARTUP RD. SULTAN, WA 98294			EXAMINER HOPKINS, ROBERT A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1797	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/28/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/518,726

Applicant(s)

HALAND, TRYGVE

Examiner

Robert A. Hopkins

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4 and 6-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4 and 6-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/02)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 2-4 and 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: a structural relationship between "an outer wall ; a scrubber; a column; a fluid inlet". The limitations stated are randomly presented and are without a clearly defined structural relationship. Correction is requested. Claims 2-4 and 7-9 depend on claim 6 and hence are also rejected.

Claim 6 recites " a gas outlet relationship that has ... ". Examiner notes that previously recited in the claim is " a gas outlet from the annular outer zone". Examiner is unclear as to if the "gas outlet arrangement" is the same or different structure than "a gas outlet from the annular outer zone". Correction is requested.

Claim 6 recites " a separation apparatus that is combined with the deliquidizer, fluid flow in the deliquidizer thereby rotating so as to be separated in a central zone along a longitudinal axis". Examiner is unsure as to if the "separation apparatus" is the same as the "spin element" previously recited in the claim or a different structure. Correction is requested.

Claim 6 recites "a liquid outlet arrangement comprising an upwardly open vessel". Examiner notes that previously recited in the claim is "a liquid outlet from the annular outer zone". Examiner is unclear as to if the "liquid outlet arrangement" is the same or different structure than the liquid outlet from the annular outer zone.

Correction is requested.

Claim 10 recites " a separation apparatus that is combined with the deliquidizer, and that is connected as a pre-separator to the fluid inlet". Examiner is unsure as to if the "separation apparatus" is the same as the "cyclone" previously recited in the claim or a different structure. Correction is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Claims 6 and 10 recite structural elements for separating liquid from a multiphase fluid flow". Haland(6752845) teaches a structure including a deliquidizer including a spin element for rotation of fluid flow, a gas outlet, a liquid collection area, and a conduit for returning separated liquid to a central portion of the spin element. However, Haland(6752845) is not "by another" as required by 35 USC 102(e), and therefore Haland(6752845) cannot be used as 102(e) anticipation reference against the current claims. Therefore, correction of the 112 second paragraph rejections set forth in the current office action for provide for claims allowable over prior art of record.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert A. Hopkins whose telephone number is 571-272-1159. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30am-5pm, every Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Rah
March 25, 2008

/Robert A Hopkins/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797